

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

LEONARD WOOD

Saturday of this week Leonard Wood, candidate for the presidency at the coming primaries, will be in Alma. It is a distinct honor that a city the size of Alma should be visited by a presidential candidate and one of America's foremost citizens.

Some people think of General Wood only as a brave soldier, but General Wood's military service, great as it is, constitutes the least of his service to his country. He has served under three presidents, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt, in positions of a civil nature and in each case has his service been distinguished by such good sound business sense as to attract nation wide attention.

General Wood is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and served as medical advisor to Presidents Cleveland and McKinley. In the Spanish-American War President McKinley commissioned him a colonel of the Rough Riders and along with Roosevelt he rendered distinguished service. At the close of the war with Spain he was placed in charge of the civil administration of Santiago. He cleaned the city, purged it of all tropical diseases, turned it from a pest hole into a healthful, beautiful, attractive city, in which the most modern works were installed. Roads and bridges were constructed; public buildings renovated or rebuilt; a school system was established; commerce was rehabilitated and the laws were executed with a promptness and justice unknown during four centuries of Spanish rule. Under Leonard Wood the people enjoyed security, prosperity and happiness.

Leonard Wood, when thirty-nine years old, became the civil Governor General of Cuba, further revealing his ability and efficiency as an administrator. His work required the adoption of a new constitution, the rewriting of the laws of the island, including a new railroad reorganization law; the revision of public works, the installation of public schools, and in general the establishment of a vast machinery for the proper operation of a new government. Leonard Wood proved himself a master builder and a diplomat, changing one of the most oppressed countries of the world into a liberal and prosperous republic.

After his success in Cuba, Leonard Wood was sent to the Philippines to handle a far more difficult task—the pacification of Mindanao. His was the job to wipe out the lawlessness of twenty Moro tribes, to earn their good will and to change a place of head-hunting and polygamy into a clean American colony with public schools. He did it. Not as a warrior, but as a good administrator, he pacified a province and transformed bitter enemies into loyal friends.

The choosing of a president is a matter that demands our most serious and earnest attention, and especially at this time we can ill afford to make a mistake. We need a man of unquestioned Americanism—one who has the courage of his convictions, one who has had experience in administrative affairs, and one broad enough to choose able and wise advisors. We can judge a man best by what he has done and is doing, and the examination of Leonard Wood's record reveals a man of unquestioned Americanism, successful executive experience, and unusual administrative ability. He is worthy of the careful consideration of his fellow citizens, regardless of party politics because of his sound judgment and demonstrated ability.

RETRENCHMENT

It is a hopeful sign that a retrenchment has apparently started in Washington where money has flowed like water for the past two or three years, regardless of the source of supply or the wisdom of spending.

Every investigation has revealed wanton waste, and miserable mismanagement in spending the people's money. Taxation has become as much of a burden as King Solomon considered the grass-hopper in his day of reckless living and foolish spending which led to the downfall and ruin of his nation. We are taxed every time we turn around and on everything we do, while the other costs of living have gone so high that "Old Man Haman" looks as though he were hanging on a gooseberry bush, instead of the highest thing in the neighborhood. The American dollar is worth about as much as a Canadian quarter was back in the days when we were living within our means and paying off the national debt, instead of trying to see how big we can make the debt that our children will have to pay, after the fool-killer has come along, and taken us to the land of prodigal sons.

Bureaus and committees have become so numerous in Washington that the clerks and swivel chair experts are treading on each other's feet, in an effort to find something to do, hence the announcement that the house appropriation has been pared, and about forty thousand clerks are to be excused from further sitting around, is quite refreshing and hopeful.

At present there are 21,000 clerks in the war department and this number will be reduced to 3,500. The war risk bureau had 17,000 and this number will be reduced to 7,500 for next year. Many high-salaried officers and experts employed by the various departments are being cut off. It was discovered that under the War Claims Bureau many were employed who were receiving from \$50 to \$75 a day, whose annual salaries aggregated more than that of General Pershing, a Cabinet officer or that of a Supreme Court Judge, when as a matter of fact many of the men who were receiving these large sums never earned to exceed \$3,000 in their lives before they were given these fat places. In all more than 40,000 employees in the Civil Service of the government will be dispensed with under this bill. The War Department, which received from various appropriations during the last year \$14,000,000 for its civil, clerical and official forces, under the present measure receives but \$2,500,000, with the provision that this is all the money that can be expended, no matter from what source received, for this service during the next fiscal year.

This is a hopeful sign and it begins to look as though the exercise of economy and the practice of thrift, about which we have heard so much, is really beginning at headquarters.

Talking about a thing never does it. It is much easier to preach than to practice. If our leaders in Washington will keep on practicing this sensible thing, the people back home will have courage to fall in and help.

We must face many hard facts in this world and facts have proved themselves to be pretty stubborn things to face. They have an unhappy faculty of remaining just as they are no matter how much we may wish them to be changed. The sooner we learn, therefore, to face them as they are and act accordingly, the better off we will be.

Did you ever stop to think that in all probability this old world will still turn on its axis long after you are dead and gone. If you haven't considered this matter and are afflicted with that disease sometimes termed the "big head," you will find this thought an almost certain cure if you repeat the dose often enough and in sufficient quantity.

If some of the investigating committees and bureaus would look around Washington they would find some real business that would emanate from the exercise of all their energies. Investigation is like charity, it should begin at home.

Success comes only to those who are willing to give an honest service of hard work in return for it. It is not a thing that can be picked up with no particular effort.

DR. MacLACHLAN DIED WEDNESDAY

(Continued from page one)

in the treatment of chronic diseases, and he decided he could start a little sanitarium of his sort in his own little town. Accordingly eighteen years ago he went to Cincinnati and took in a special course in electrical and physiological therapeutics. Returning he at once bought electrical equipment and started in on his new idea. In this he was very successful. Putting in an electrical power plant of his own, he gave lights to the village, and built up a well equipped institution, in which he treated all sorts of chronic diseases with a marked success which brought him all the work he could handle without advertising—an institution which might have grown to large proportions in a town with modern conveniences. He was conducting this place when he was stricken down by paralysis 14 months before his death.

During his labor for 2 score years in Elwell he saw the country round about developing step by step; The many old log houses of 40 years ago replaced by beautiful farm homes; and acres and acres of timber lands give way for fields of grain. The old log "corduroy" roads over which he walked, then rode his pony, and later bumped along with his old buckboard buggy, almost impassable during the rainy seasons—now offer little resistance to the doctor of today. He came to the place when existence was still a struggle for the old pioneers and settlers. His life had always been a struggle too, so his sympathies went out to the laboring class of people. Blunt in speech with a rough and ready exterior, yet possessing a jovial disposition with a tender sympathetic heart; forgetful of his own needs and always laboring with the relief of human suffering uppermost in his mind, he was specially fitted for his labors among the sturdy country people where he had chosen his life's work. He quickly found a place in their hearts and after nearly 40 years, they loved him still. This was evident not only by the floral tribute for his burial, but also by the fact that during the long months of his illness, his room was never a week without flowers from some of his many friends, both old and new and far and near.

Funeral services were held at his home in Elwell, conducted by Rev. Jackson of Alma, who read at the close, the poem, "The Country Doctor," by Will Carleton.

The members of the Elwell I. O. O. F. who were so faithful in helping care for him during the last weeks of his illness, stood by to the end, and conducted the services at the burial place, Oak Grove cemetery, St. Louis.

INTERESTING ARTICLE

(Continued from page one)

"Many vessels have been launched at Harriman in honor of distinguished work of a particular town or county in Liberty Loan and other enterprises connected with the war, but the launching of the S. S. "City of Alma," at 9:15 on the morning of Tuesday, January 13, was as pretty an event as any of the twenty-two previous ones.

"The sponsor of the occasion was Miss Esther Rhodes of Alma, Mich., chosen for her activity and accomplishments during the war. She is a senior in Alma high school, and is preparing for Smith College. She was accompanied by her parents. Her father, Charles Rhodes, is a prominent business man of the thriving Michigan town.

"In addition, the party consisted of Charles R. Murphy, Mayor of Alma; T. A. Robinson, of New York; D. J. Sullivan, of Fall River, Mass.; and J. W. Almon and Miss Stubbs.

of the Philadelphia office of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

"The vessel was the twenty-third to be added to Uncle Sam's Merchant Marine at Harriman, and brought the total tonnage launched to date to over the two hundred thousand ton mark, the exact figures being 202,400.

"The town that was thus signally honored has about four thousand inhabitants. It is in Gratiot county Michigan, about 37 miles west of Saginaw. Farm products are shipped largely from its confines and it has several large factories, including a sugar factory, which is something to boast of nowadays. Alma also gains distinction as the home of the Republic Truck and Alma College.

"After the launching those in the party were dined at the Merchant Restaurant and then inspected the shipyard and townsite.

"The vessel was in excellent shape at the time of launching, and the manner in which she was taken care of after hitting the "ice" of the Delaware is described elsewhere. It was some feat, and too much credit cannot be bestowed upon Frank Jacobs.

"The sub-contractors, as usual, were on the job. They play a prominent part in the work of building ships up the Delaware, and credit is forthcoming to all, including Stephen Ransom, marine pipe fitters; American Insulation Co., pipe and boiler insulation; Frid Engineering Co., ice machinery; C. V. Hill, refrigerator builder; L. K. Comstock, electrical work; James Elgar, joiner work; Marine Decking & Supply Co., cement, etc.; John Wanamaker, linoleums, and National Tile & Mosaic Co., tiles, etc."

The Alma Record is indebted to Sydney P. Cook of the Great Lakes Engineering Works for copies of these articles.

MAY TRAIN HERE

Following close on the heels of the announcement that the Saginaw Aces, champions of Michigan-Ontario league last year, would train in Alma this spring, comes a rumor to the effect that the Moose Jaw, Alberta, Canada, nine may also seek this city as its training camp. The Moose Jawers are in the Northern league. Information secured from the Republic baseball club management, this week seems, however, to preclude the possibility of the Canadian team coming here for its training.

Colorado's Wonderland

The Garden of the Gods is a tract of land, about 500 acres in extent, near Colorado Springs, Colo. It abounds in weird and fantastic pinnacles of red and white sandstone, some of them more than 300 feet high. Among the chief features are the Cathedral spires, the Balanced rock, etc. The gateway of the garden consists of two enormous masses of red sandstone, 300 feet high, sufficiently far apart for the roadway to pass between them.

"Kitchen Middens"

Kitchen middens are great mounds, some 100 feet long and 250 feet wide, found in Denmark, England, Scotland, France and in parts of Europe, North and South America and Australia. They are supposed to be the refuse heaps of prehistoric periods, and are composed chiefly of oyster, periwinkle, cockle and mussel shells. In them are found implements of wood, stone, bones of animals and children.

Father of Whist

The modern game was evolved by Edmund Hoyle, who died 150 years ago. He wrote a treatise on whist which ran into five editions in a year, and achieved such fame as a coach to whist players that Byron once exclaimed: "Troy owes to Homer what whist owes to Hoyle."

"The Only Quiet Hour of the Week"

That's what many a business man has said of the church service. Business cares and worries are forgotten in the restfulness of God's house. Invest an hour a week for the good of your soul. Get the habit of coming regularly.

Subject, 11 a. m.—"Must the Stones Cry Out?"

Subject, 7 p. m.—"Changing His Name."

MATT W. DUFFEY, Minister

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Announcement

WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE that Mr. Leo A. Wood will represent the Detroit Mortgage Corporation in the sale of First Mortgage Gold Bonds in Alma. The selection of Mr. Wood is in keeping with the high standard of representation we require.

First Mortgage Bonds, offered by us, are on Detroit properties only—the best in America. Your investment is absolutely safe. The personnel of this company assures it, our assets of over \$4,000,000 assure it, the fact that no issue exceeds 50 per cent of the property valuation assures it.

These bonds pay 6% interest and are tax exempt in Michigan. They come in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000.

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